10-01

FRIENDLY HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

"Where Learning Lives"

# HAWK HEADLINER

Volume 4, Issue 2
October, 2001

## The Principal's Page

### Facing the National Tragedy

Our recent national tragedy may well be the most impressionable event that happens in your childrens' lifetime. The events of September 11 are no less traumatic to this age group than Pearl Harbor or President Kennedy's assassination was to those generations. What makes this event different, however, is that for the first time the attacks are not against a military target or a leader, but against ordinary citizens. This realization is not lost on your children.

Our teachers and our staff handled the crisis in the most professional manner. While we worked to recognize the enormity of the event, we also tried to maintain as much routine as possible, especially for our younger children. While older children were allowed to watch as some of the news unfolded, it was done only with adult supervision and appropriate discussions. I personally talked to individual classrooms assuring them that the attacks were targeted at symbols of the United States. I reassured them that Friendly Hills, while important to us, would not be a symbol for these terrorists to attack.

As hard as we have worked to maintain a positive, supportive atmosphere, I can not stress enough that this tragedy will impact each child in a different way. Some students may hardly be affected at all, while others may be profoundly changed. The Washington D.C. School system in responding to these events listed some helpful information for parents in this regard. They state "The two most common indicators of distress in children are changes in behavior and behavior regression." A significant change in your child's behavior or a return to behaviors your child exhibited when they were younger, may be reason for concern.

If you are noticing these changes, practice patience and tolerance with your child. You may want to temporarily consider relaxing expectations at home. Open, thoughtful discussions with your child are also helpful. Children need to know they are safe, reviewing your home safety procedures can be a way of helping to reassure them. Maintaining important routines are also important. For older students opportunities for involvement with same age group activities may also be important.

Together we can help our children through this difficult time.

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Dates of interest

- 10/4 McDonald's Night 5-7
- 10/5 Frashers Photo Day
- 10/8 Teacher/Parent Conference Day (no school)
- 10/19 End of 1st Quarter
- 10/22-26 Red Ribbon Week
- 10/25&26 Bug Lady Assembly
- 10/28 Daylight Savings Time Ends (Fall Back)
- 10/30 Awards Assemblies

FRIENDLY HILLS HAWKS

I Love You!

# REACHING FAR

This excellent program is in full swing at Friendly Hills. It is called REACHING for Family Achievement in Reading, or REACHING FAR for short. This program works with students from first through fifth grade who are having difficulty in reading. It takes place before school, so all the students get an extra dose of reading. What is unique about this program is the way it involves the family.

Parents attend three meetings during the program to help them learn effective ways to work with their children in reading. Parents agree to read nightly with their children and to make sure that kids attend 95% of all the morning sessions. In return, the school sends home books with the children each night that are easy to read to increase the students reading fluency.

The teachers work in teams of two, working with 4 to 6 students each. One teacher works on phonics and word identification skills, while the other works on comprehension skills. In the upper grades writing skills are also covered. The program is based on current research into best instructional practices.

## VIEW FROM THE GATE

The Gifted and Talented program is off to a great start. This year will continue with our own stand alone program. FHES teachers are developing 6-week programs that fit with their own unique talents and tap into student interest. This year, these programs are built around the theme of "Discoveries and Investigations". This program is serving approximately 20-25 students in grades 4-6.

The first session will be "Discovery Through Science". Students will explore the area of engineering, forces and structures. They will also investigate the microscopic world and the tools that assist scientists in this area.

In future weeks, GATE students will discover the many areas involved in building and creating structures, including the actual construction of a small frame shed. They will also become Crime Scene Investigators, learning about the new tools criminologists use to capture the bad guy. Students will read a short novel and write their own short story, incorporating the tools they have learned about into their mystery.

The final chapter of the GATE year will culminate with "Star Light, Star Bright". Working in two-week units, students will learn the scientific information about planets, stars, constellations or other objects in our night sky. The second week will look at the same topic from a creative or artistic side. Students may write poetry, paint pictures and write a story about the topic of which they have just studied.

Instructors include Mrs. Tilson, Mr. Bogner, Mrs. Friedman, and Mr. and Mrs. Reed. GATE classes will be held Tues-Thurs. before school with some scheduled Saturday classes.

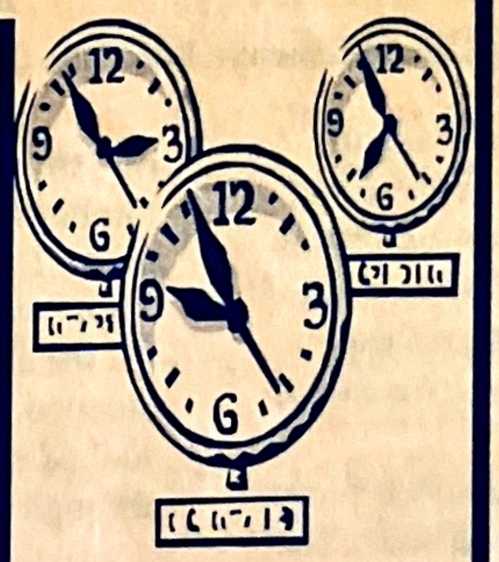
# FRIENDLY HILLS ELEMENTARY ASSOCIATION

Speaking of something active, this group is one of the most important connections the school has between home and school. While the parent group has many goals and serves many functions, one of the most important is their fund raising. Through their work, Friendly Hills is able to take more field trips than almost any other school in the district. Already this year they raised over $700 from their annual spaghetti dinner and soda floats sale. The group is much more than fund raising, however. It is a chance to get involved and take an active roll with what is happening at your child's school. Please join us at our next meeting, Tuesday, October 16 at 7:00 p.m.

**Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.**

## PARENT AND STUDENT REMINDERS

Our teachers love to have your kids here while they are teaching. There is so much to learn and share. Just a reminder, when children leave early, it disrupts that teaching, causing children to miss out on important information and results in a tardy for your child. The only exception is when this is cleared for a medical appointment.



While we do love to have your children here, when they arrive early before the gates open at 9:00 am, for grades 1-6,, it can be a recipe for trouble. Please make sure that your children are not arriving too early to school. We have no supervision before 9:00 a.m. and no crossing guard. We do have a bus that comes over from JT Kid's Club in the morning for those who would like supervised childcare. Check with the office for details.

**Red Ribbon Week:**

The week of October 22 – 26 is National Red Ribbon Week. Our special theme is "Love Bugs, Not Drugs". In keeping with that theme, we'll be having the "Bug Lady" visit FHES again. This is a special "hands-on" assembly with Dr. Sue, the bug lady, sharing her special love of bugs with our students. We'll also be having our monthly Sports Recess featuring BUGS!

## Eagle Rock by Michelle L. Mummey (Mr. Reed's Sixth Grade Class)

Last summer when my mom had to work, my dad had taken a few days off. It was Tuesday morning and my dad woke my sister, Sarah and I up at the crack of dawn to go drive around. I'm not sure where it was he took us, but it was cool!

There were tons of boulders in different shapes and sizes. Some looked like elephants and some looked like mice. But probably the best one was the one that looked like an eagle. It's features even looked as though it was carved that way. It was the highest and faced the sunrise. It's mouth was open and inside its mouth was a huge nest!

I walked around the perimeter and noticed there was a formation of boulders that might lead up to the next! I knew I just had to get a closer view. I pointed this out to Dad and Sarah. "Whoever gets to the top first", Sarah said, "gets to name it". I started to climb. 20 minutes later I was halfway up when I noticed how close I was getting to the sky. The sky looked like wisps of smoke. Maybe something was burning somewhere?

I ignored the sky and kept climbing. I started thinking about stuff like what if I couldn't get down and what if I got hurt, and what if something wasn't really burning and a big storm was brewing. What if I got caught up here when the storm came. Then I wondered whether all those things would combine to torture me. I don't even want to start thinking about that.

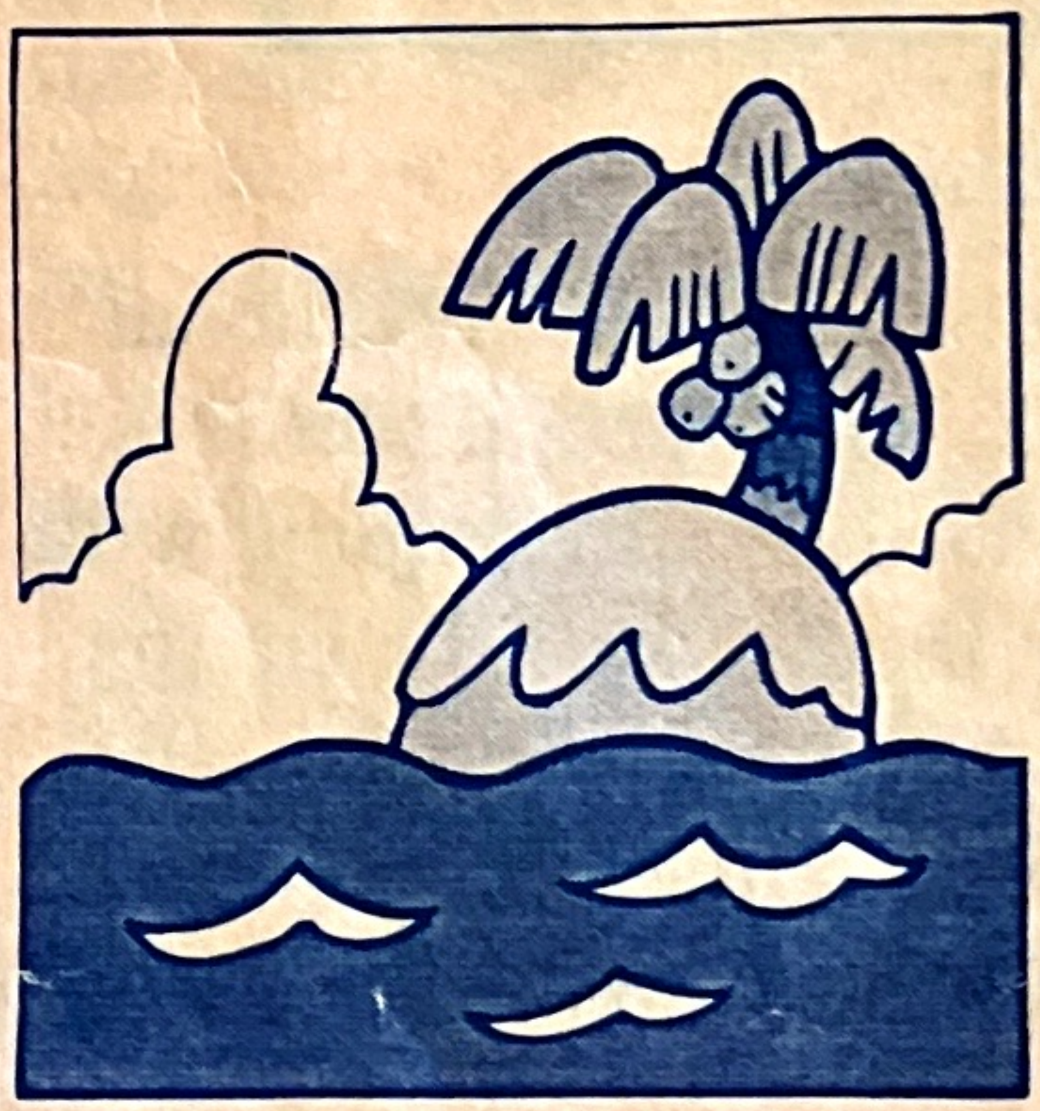
When I decided I didn't want to know about the "What If Tragedy Cases", I realized that I had to be 3 feet from the top. I looked behind, Sarah was out of site. I walked forward casually faster and faster, and all of a sudden Sarah come out of nowhere, but I was ahead. I started running, 2 ft., 1 ft., 6 in., BAM! I was there!

I had made it. I had got there first. I soon realized out of all the things I thought about I never thought once about what I was going to name it. Then I knew. I would call it 'EAGLE ROCK'!

## My Wet Picnic by Cheyenne Westlake (Mrs. Reed's 5th Grade Class)

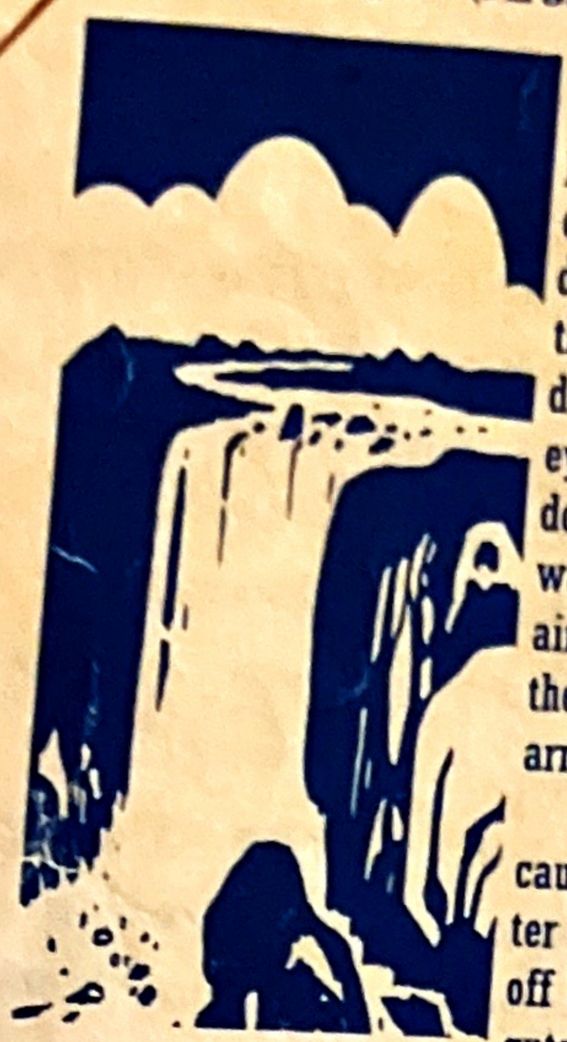
The Elephant Bute Lake is a National Park in New Mexico. There are trees, buildings and even roads under the clear water. It is hot and cool, but mostly hot. My sister and I were there on vacation to have a great time again like last year and the year before and the years before that. It had been a nice few days for swimming.

We wanted to have a picnic and see some more islands that we haven't seen before. So we all went to have a picnic on an island. We even saw a house in a little bay like area on the water. The boat ride was so much fun, going fast with the water splashing off the side of the boat and then stopping to fill a bucket with water for our squirt guns. When you sprayed the water on you it was nice and cold. The water sprayed on us while we rode in the boat. I love going on rides on my uncle's boat I hate the wobbling and it feels as if I'm on a waterbed. I didn't want to look like a chicken, so I was brave for my self. So I held my breath, closed my eyes and sat down on the seat while water sprayed my face from the side of the boat. The water hitting the side of the boat made it a little loud, so my uncle had to yell as he pointed out old trees and stumps. Trees look like fire torches and stumps look like erasers from the sight of the boat. The kettle tops looked fantastic. The islands looked even better from the boat. Once we found an island and got off the cool down. I thought I was going to faint when I stepped in a whole lot of yucky, stinky, sinky moss. Then I looked at the sky. I could feel the moss starting to ooose through my shoes while I looked at a few gray clouds. I thought that my shoes would get stuck in the moss. My sister felt the moss too. While we were in the moss, my uncle just kept on cooking the hotdogs and hamburgers. I got me and my shoes out of the moss so we could start eating. Once we had started eating, we had to put it up and head back home to shore.



# Ay Fall Off the Waterfall

by Scott Bogner (Mrs. Reed's 5th Grade Class)



When I was jumping off the jagged cliffs into the water, I was double dared to jump off the highest cliff. So, I did. At first I closed my eyes and thought I couldn't do it, but I jumped anyway. I flew through the air like a bird but I hit the water like a rock. My arms stung like crazy.

When my eyes caught a glimpse of a water fall, I wanted to jump off but I didn't have the guts. Then I saw someone standing in a hole in the waterfall so I waited for the person to get out and then I got in. It was cool and refreshing to stand in it. But then I saw my uncle jump so I went over there and I was just about to jump when I slipped. I saw my life flash before my eyes. Then I felt my knee hit a rock and then my side. When I finally realized I was in the water and sinking, my uncle jumped in and saved me. My mom and dad kept on telling me to stay in the water, but I said "it hurt too much".

Then we had to leave. I had to walk up a steep muddy hill. I slipped more than once and more than once a person got the back of my leg in their face. When I got up the hill, I had to walk a miserable mile back to the car. We got to pet some baby ducks and man were they cute. We got back to my uncle's house and ate dinner and went to bed.

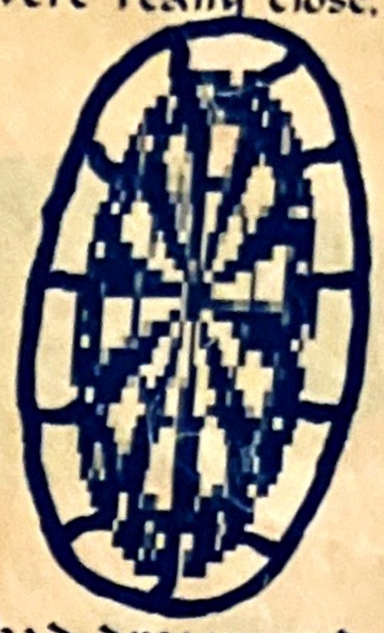
The End!

# The Life Saver of a Dream Catcher

By Marialena Martinez (Mrs. Ladner's 5th Grade Class)

Once there was a girl named Marialena. There was also a girl named Megan. They were really good friends. One night they had a bad dream. It took place in an Indian tent.

Marialena and Megan spent all their time together. They also slept in the same tent. Their tribe had 35 people in it. 15 of them were children and the rest were all adults. All of the people were really close, especially Megan and Marialena.



One day they had a bad dream and it's good that they made a dream catcher the day before. It was a bad thing they didn't hang it up for the night. They had the same bad dream and they were in the dream too. It was really scary. The next day, they both talked about it.

They solved the problem by hanging up the dream catcher the next night. They never had a dream again. The dream catcher was like a life saver. They were grateful their parents passed down the art of making a dream catcher.

I liked my story because of the characters. I really enjoyed making my own dream catcher. I thank Mrs. Ladner for teaching me how to make them.

**Dare to dream, use your imagination and let creativity flow from your soul. Taking time, everyday, to read a little and write a little is good medicine for the body and spirit..**
**Thank you to our wonderful student writers for inspiring us!**

**FRIENDLY HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

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*Friendly Hills is dedicated to ensuring that students acquire the necessary skills to be high achievers, exemplary citizens and life long, self motivated learners.*

**Please e-mail me at kevin_blanding @ morongo.k12.ca.us**

## Our Story

*Friendly Hills Elementary was founded in 1988 as part of the Morongo Unified School District. Since it's inception, the school has been instrumental in the education of more than 1000 students. Our first kindergarten class will graduate in the year 2000. We are confident that those students and all who will follow, leave this school with a strong well rounded education. Our tradition has been one of academic excellence, high student expectations and an education rich in the arts. As we move into the future, Friendly Hills continues to lead in these areas as well as emerging as an innovator in the area of technology. We attribute our success to a talented, dedicated staff, caring parents and wonderful students.*

# SCHOOL BASED MANAGEMENT COUNCIL NEWS

The School Based Management Council is a decision making body within the school. This committee puts together a Site Based Plan each year that outlines how money for special programs will be spent. It is made up of an equal number of parents and staff.

During this past month's meeting, the committee reviewed our accomplishments on state and local assessment data. The committee learned that Friendly Hills again had outstanding gains on the STAR assessment, especially in the area of math. Based on this information, the committee reviewed our critical needs, removing math targets for the coming year. This, it was reported, would allow the school to focus more fully on the main areas of need, such as language arts and reading.

As a step in this direction, our staff development activities were reviewed. Teachers are in the process of receiving training on the "6 + 1 Traits" method of writing instruction and evaluation. Also, it was confirmed that a new set of Alpha-Smart laptop writing tools have been ordered to increase our students access to word processing.

Finally, the committee is in need of two new members from our school parents. If you are interested in participating in this committee please call Mr. Blanding. The group meets from 3:45 – 5:00 on the second Thursday of each month.

# September Awards

| Teacher's Name | Student of the Month | Citizenship Award | Outstanding Effort | Writing Award |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mrs. Bernardini | Erik Pefers | Chelsea Gordon | Cody Waldrop | Alexis Ramos |
| Mr. Bogner | Ellie Ingram | Dakota Westlake | Kourtney Chinen<br>Shanel Phillippe | Jerry Suddreth |
| Mrs. Candelaria | Katelyn Weedman | Jasmine Moore | Robert Vineyard | Christian Kahrs |
| Mr. Chambless | Courtney Yakutis | Joe Robertson | Peyton Orten | Louis Moore |
| Mrs. Dempsey | Cody Rosselli | Monica Tree | Marissa Salomon | Kaela Clement |
| Mrs. Friedman | Tim Zarki | Shelby Blair | Mitchell Nilan | Michael Korcho |
| Mr. & Mrs. Hesse | Jaclyn Cuyno | Kalia Brown | Gage Brenneman | Sarah Fleischman |
| Ms. Hodges | Amanda Gordon | Jenna Fisher | Krista Chinen | Ashiana Brown |
| Mrs. Ladner | Megan Payton | Melissa Cosner | Brian Arbuckle | Zackary Szabo |
| Mrs. Mann | Sarah Clark | Crystal Capwell | Josie Arechiga | Cody Sniffin |
| Mrs. Mitz | Sierra Zacks | Angel Abuanna | Caleb Norman | Tayanna Ahumada |
| Mr. Reed | Kirk Shipley | Stefani Cotney | Austin Whitebear | Michelle Mummey |
| Mrs. Reed | Peter Gorwin | Ashley Thallas | Brandon Durnal | Thia Scrimshaw |
| Mrs. Seacat | Kirsten Romero | Tyler Johnson | Jordan Chartier | Phillip Perry |
| Mrs. Strader | Hannah Olson | John Ferro | Matt Campagna | Kaitlyn Murphy |
| Ms. Subriar | Marc Salomon | Tiffani Cotney | Holly Wightman | Bryan Hempe |
| Mrs. Tilson | Seanise Marsh | Dessarai Chapman | Cassie Brohamer | Emily Paul |
| Ms. Williams | Billy Brown | Allen Flug | Chris Gardner | Chris Schorer |
| Mrs. Winchell | Isabel Ramos | Zachary Sands | Erik McClay | Katie Mathein |

# October, 2001

Friendly Hills Elementary School

| Mon | Tue | Wed | | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2 — VMES<br>BOE @ 7 pm | 3 —<br>CBEDS Day<br>Federal Survey Cards go home | 4<br>McDonald's Night Fundraiser 5-7pm | 5<br>Frasher's PHOTO DAY | 6 |
| 7<br>Fire Prevention Week | 8 ~~NO School~~<br>~~Columbus Day~~<br>Teacher/Parent Conference Day (No School for Students) | 9 NO School | 10 | 11<br>2-day District Office Workshop with walk-through classrooms<br>SBMC @ 3:45 | 12<br>2-day study session in Technology Lab | 13 |
| 14<br>National Children's Day | 15 no School<br>Administrative Council for principal @ 12:30 | 16 mini School<br>BOSS's DAY<br>2nd gr to Oak Glen (9:45-3:15)<br>Staff Meeting @ 3:45<br>BOE/FHEA @ 7 pm | 17 earley School<br>Disaster Drill @ 9:45 | 18 FHES | 19<br>End of 1st Quarter | 20 |
| 21 | 22<br>Red Ribbon Week --> | 23 | 24<br>Sports Recess Day | 25<br>Bug Lady Assembly | 26<br>Bug Lady Assembly<br>1st gr to Children's Museum (9:45-3:15) | 27 |
| 28<br>Daylight Savings Time Ends (Fall Back) | 29<br>Administrative Council for principal @ 12:30 | 30<br>Awards Assemblies<br>K,3-4 @ 9:40, 5-6 @ 10:15, K-2 @ 2:45 | 31<br>HALLOWEEN<br>BOO! | | | |